



The Cruising Club of America

SEA AREA DESIGNATIONS

USED FOR

OFFSHORE WEATHER FORECASTS

Version 6.02

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SUMMARY

This paper is comprised of official charts of offshore areas used in weather forecasting.

To assist in disseminating voice and text weather bulletins, many countries including the US designate sea areas by name. The charts that follow are for the US (North East, South East and Caribbean, West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii), Canadian, Western Europe, the Mediterranean, Australia and New Zealand. Others will be added as they become available or are requested.

Also included are the German Weather Service RTTY broadcast areas around Europe. The sequence of these five day forecasts and their locations are included in the listing that follows as well as in the "Appendix to the Offshore Communications Memorandum".

FOREWORD

We had no idea that the "Offshore Communications Memorandum" would become so voluminous when I first started to draft it. To keep things more manageable, the "Appendix to the Offshore Communications Memorandum" had to be added to reduce the size of the Memorandum and to provide better organization. Since then, both papers have continued to expand and are now very large files. At this writing and before this paper, the "Appendix" had grown to 63 pages. With some ideas for additional material, things again have become unmanageable.

Files this large are difficult to download particularly at slow baud rates or where the link is weak. For these and other reasons, I've decided to break some of the material out into separate papers. Hopefully, it will also make for easier and more focused access.

The primary paper, the Memorandum, will continue to deal with safety, weather, and communication systems such as Navtex, RTTY, notes on yacht navigation, yacht communications and so on. The focus is mainly on applications available to the Single Sideband Radio (SSB) omitting theory, installation and the like available elsewhere.

The "Appendix" has now been renamed "Frequencies, Nets, WX Schedules And Tables" to better reflect its content. It will continue with listings and table data such as authorized SSB frequencies, Nets (both SSB and Ham), weather fax schedules for North America and Europe, the RTTY schedule from Hamburg, Germany, an extended listing of Navtex stations, SailMail Stations, Conversion Tables and so on.

All of the charts previously included in the "Appendix" will be removed in the next update. Those that were posted are now updated with this release.

Caution When Using Sea Area Charts:

There has been a concern that many countries do not agree on names for the same area or even the same boundaries for shared or nearby waters. This was to have been resolved by an agreement dating from 2002. Unfortunately, many countries particularly in the Mediterranean have not yet complied with that agreement.

Some of the inconsistencies reflect a country's interest in an area. For example, England refers to Biscay Bay simply as "Biscay" while France and Spain subdivide that area into "Iroise, Yeu, Rochebonne and Cantabrico". This is certainly understandable since these are local waters to those countries and they naturally have a greater interest.

Perhaps the worse situation however is in the eastern Mediterranean with the geographic delineations and named areas between Greece and Turkey which warrant navigational caution.

An example of this is the area just to the west of "Taurus" near the eastern end of the Med. This area is called "Jason" by Turkey and "Samos and Karpathon Sea" by the Greece. Further to the northwest, the Adriatic Sea is divided into three sections by Italy and Croatia using parallels of Latitude (not the same) while the Greeks and Turks have it divided into two sections, each with different names and different boundaries. There are many illustrations of this. So much for the agreement.

Listening to or downloading one country's forecast while viewing another country's charts can be risky business.

Some Administrative Notes

1. Initial posting: February, 2006.
2. Version 6.1 signifies the year of posting (6) and the issue (1).
3. Downloading this paper to a computer running on Windows XP requires Acrobat Reader Version 6.0 or higher. Acrobat Reader Ver. 5.0 was released prior to Windows XP and while the display will appear correct on the computer screen running Windows XP, it will not print correctly. Acrobat Reader Version 7.0 or better (available free at this website) will do the job properly.
4. Margins, top and bottom, left and right have been set as follows:
 - a. Top and bottom – 1.0"
 - b. Left and right – 0.6"
 - c. Header and footer – 0.5"

Clearly, this material is not all inclusive and is dated by its nature. It was current in the winter of 2006. Readers who learn of meaningful changes are asked to forward these for use in future updates.

Suggestions on how to improve this paper along with updates and comments are most welcomed; please do not hesitate to send an email. By all means, the latest version of this paper and the others should always be consulted.

Best wishes for fair winds and good sailing.

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Chair
Offshore Communications and Electronics
CCA

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CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Major changes, additions and corrections in this version are highlighted in **YELLOW** where practical to assist in recognizing them. Where a new section or paragraph has been added, the title in the Table of Contents and the title (only) in the body of the paper are highlighted.

Corrections and Addendum:

Ver 6.01

Initial release

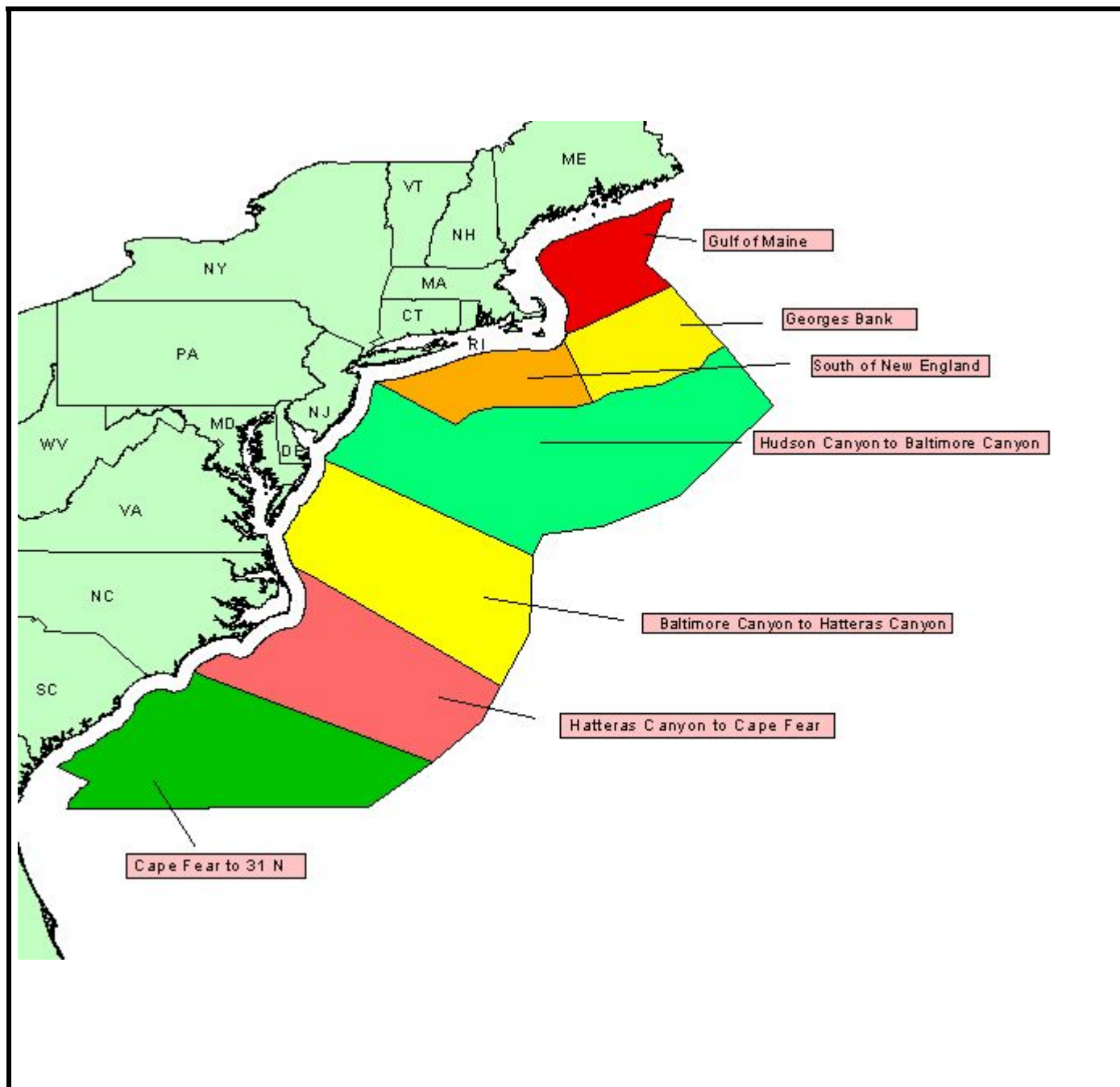
Ver 6.02

Revised Canadian charts to provide details (thanks to Rick Salsman at Halifax, NS).

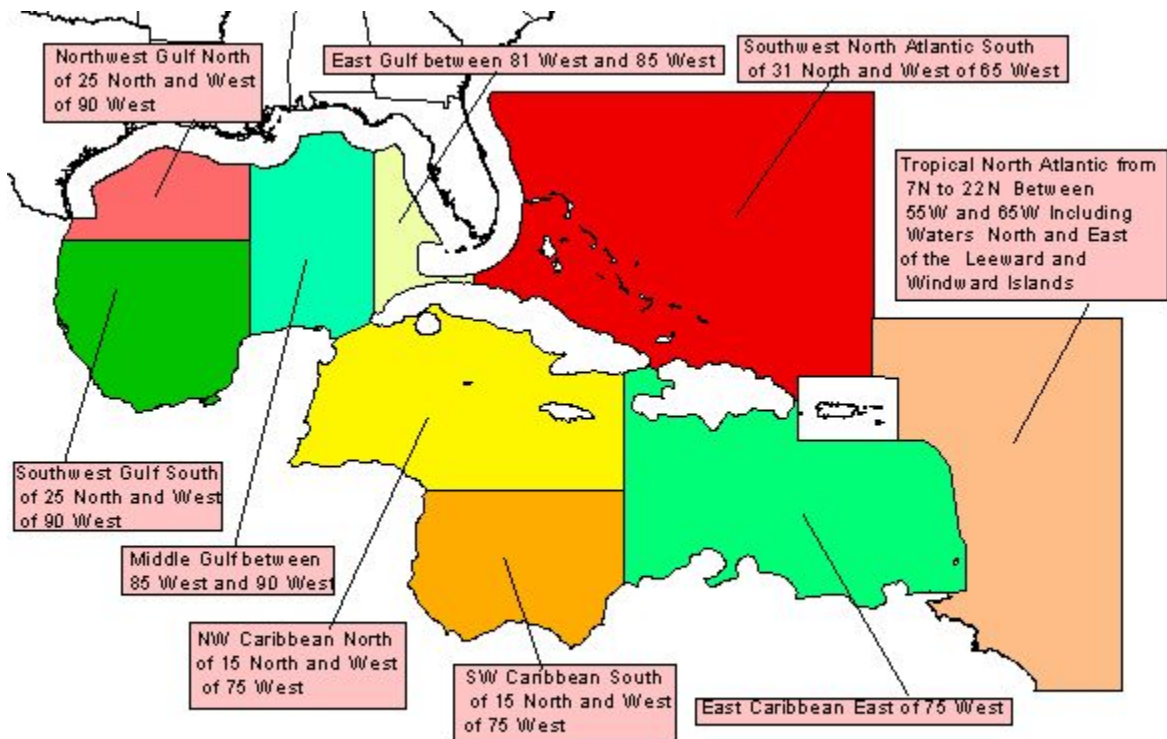
Revised Italian chart for enhanced picture (thanks to Filippo Giannetti in Italy).

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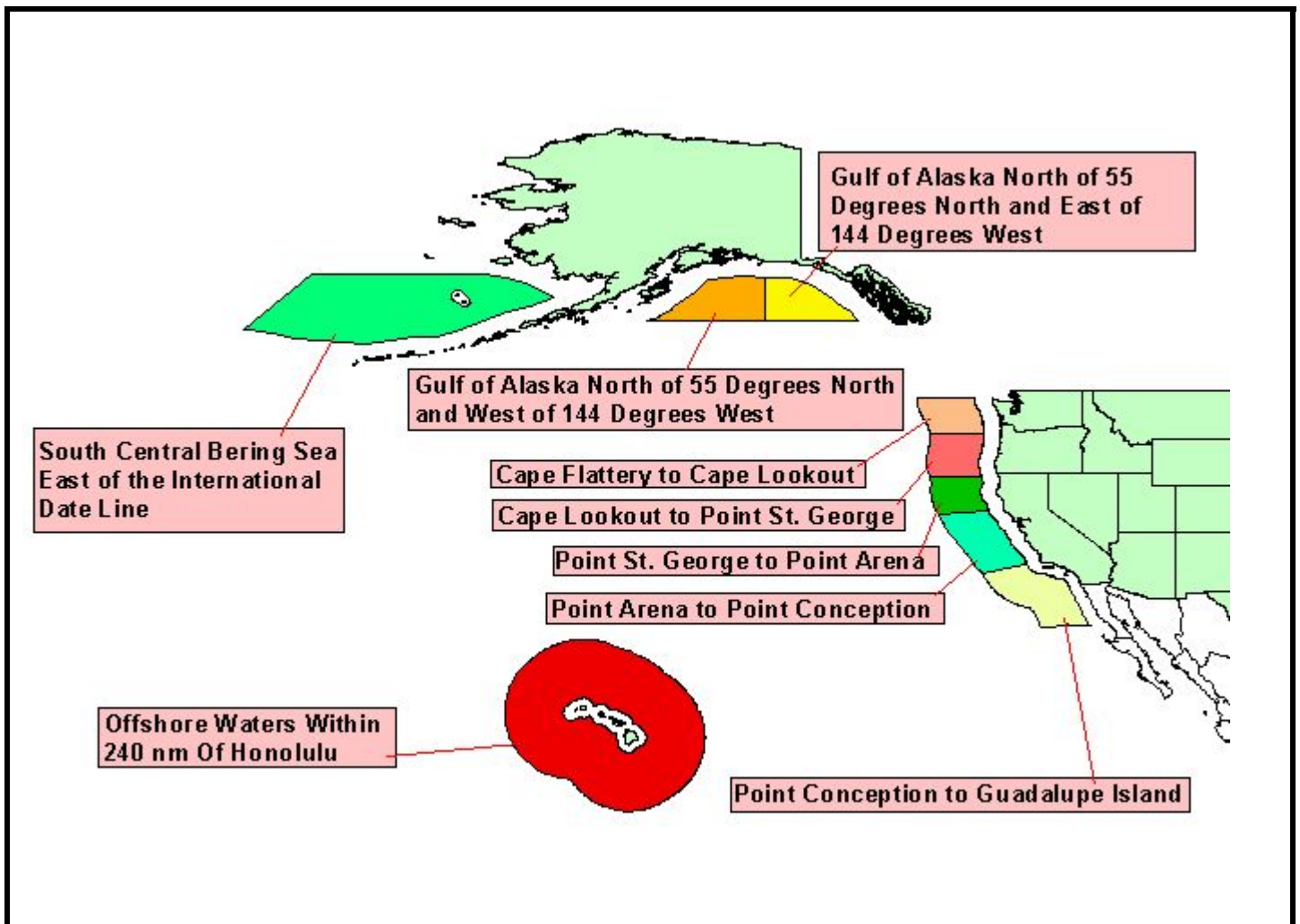
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2. USA – Southeast Atlantic, Gulf Coast and Caribbean Sea Areas



3. USA – West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii Sea Areas



4. Canadian Sea Areas

Downloaded: 6 Mar 2006

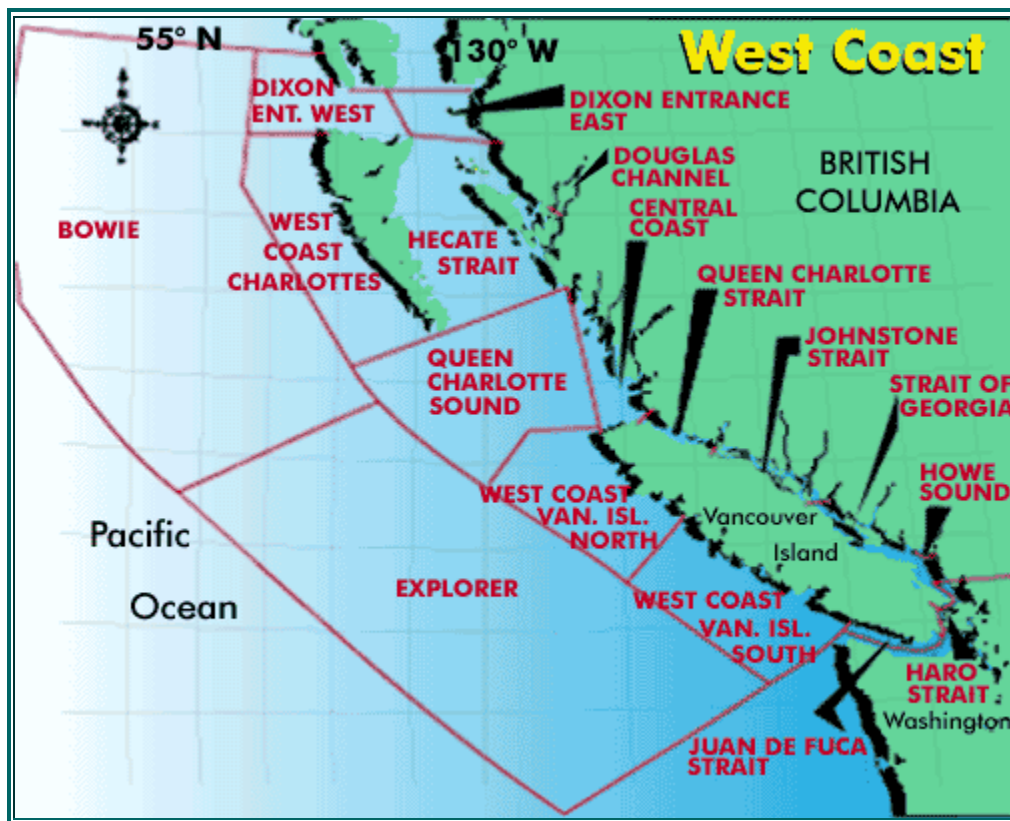
4.1 Canada – Atlantic Coast



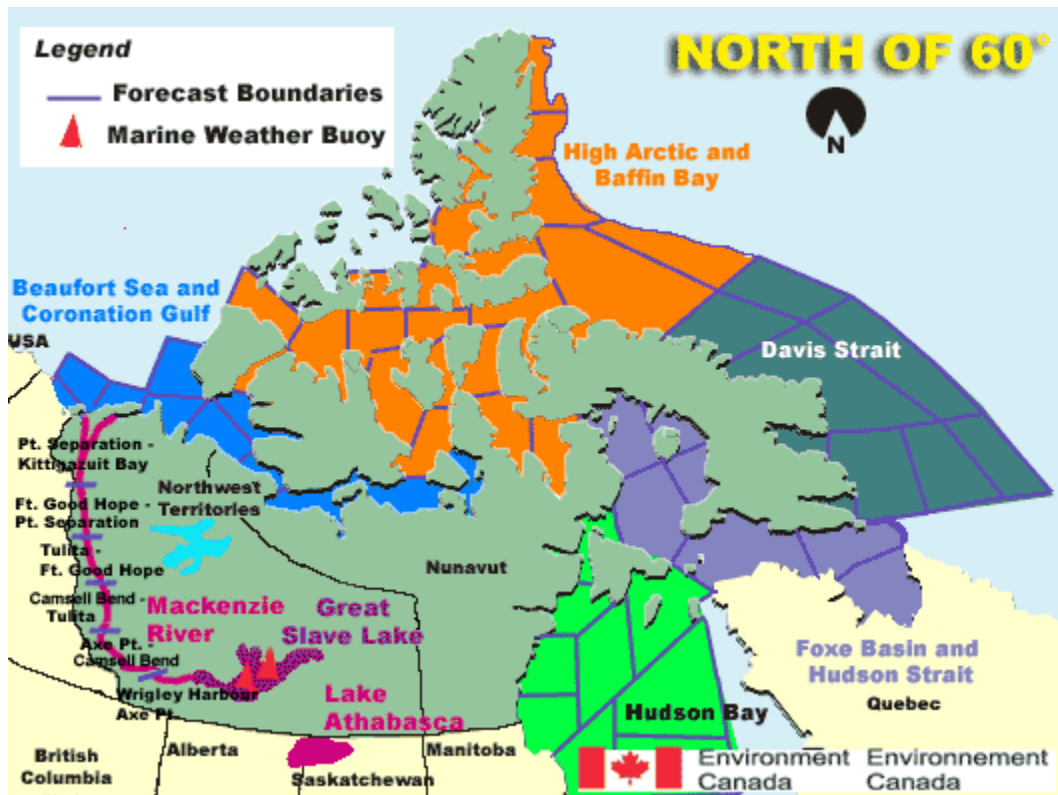
4.2 Canada – Ontario Lakes



4.3 Canada – Pacific Coast



4.4 Canada – Coast North Of 60 Degrees

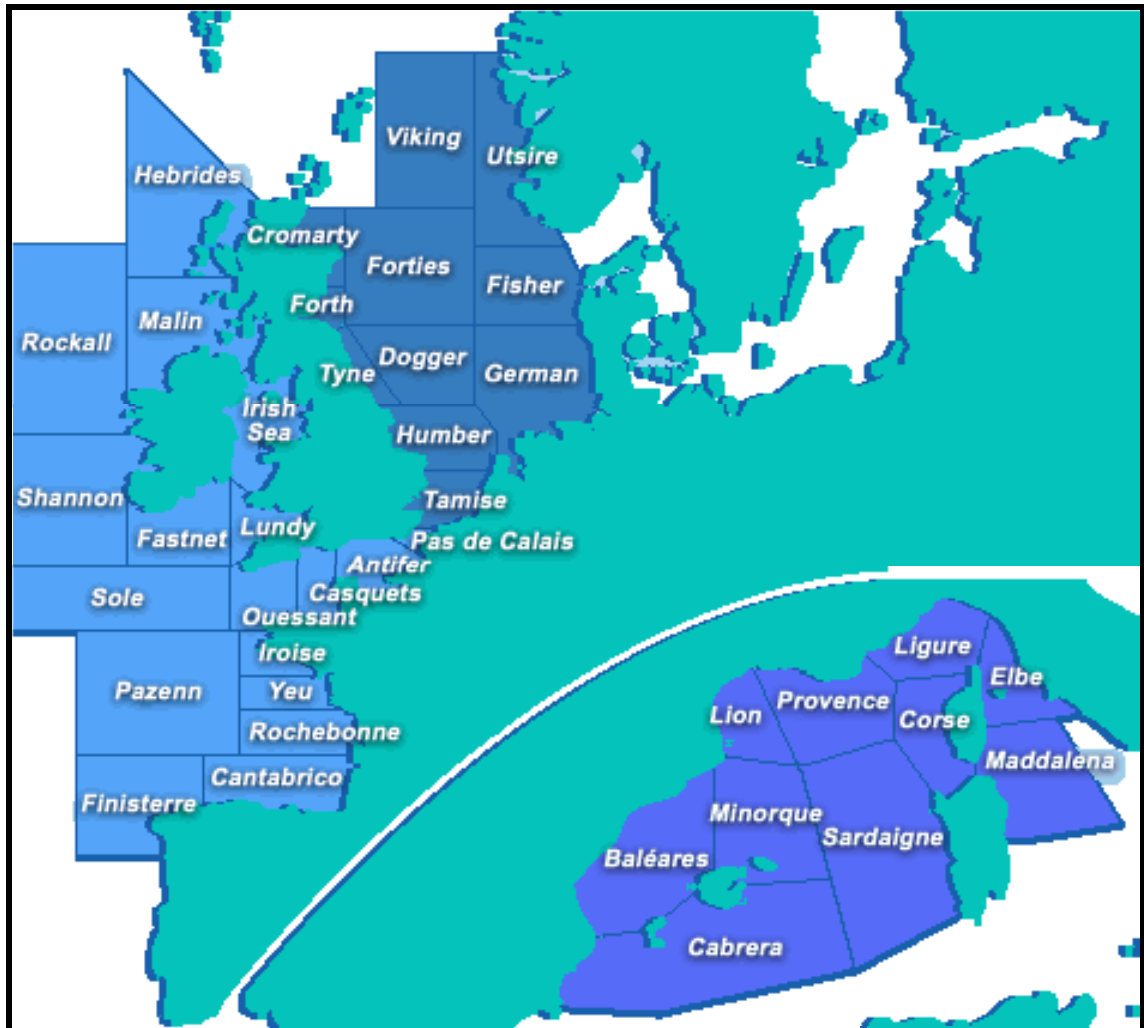




Weather bulletins for shipping are broadcast daily on BBC Radio 4 at the following times: 0048 and 0535 (long wave and FM), 1200 and 1755 (normally long wave only). The bulletins consist of a gale warning summary, general synopsis, sea-area forecasts and coastal station reports. In addition, gale warnings are broadcast at the first available programme break after receipt. If this does not coincide with a news bulletin, the warning will be repeated after the next news bulletin.

6. French Sea Areas

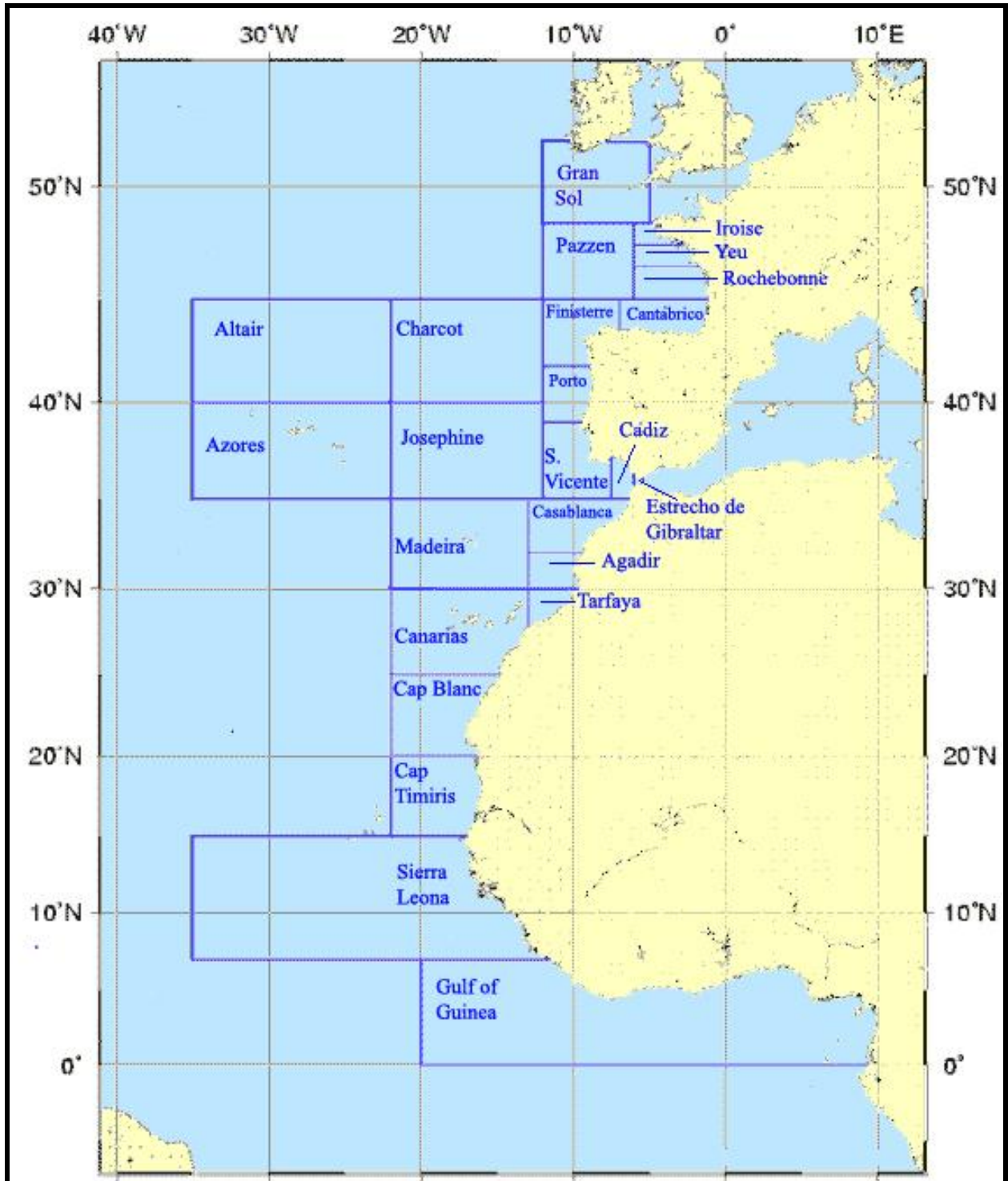
The following chart is presented courtesy of Meteo France website. The same designations are used by Radio Monaco.

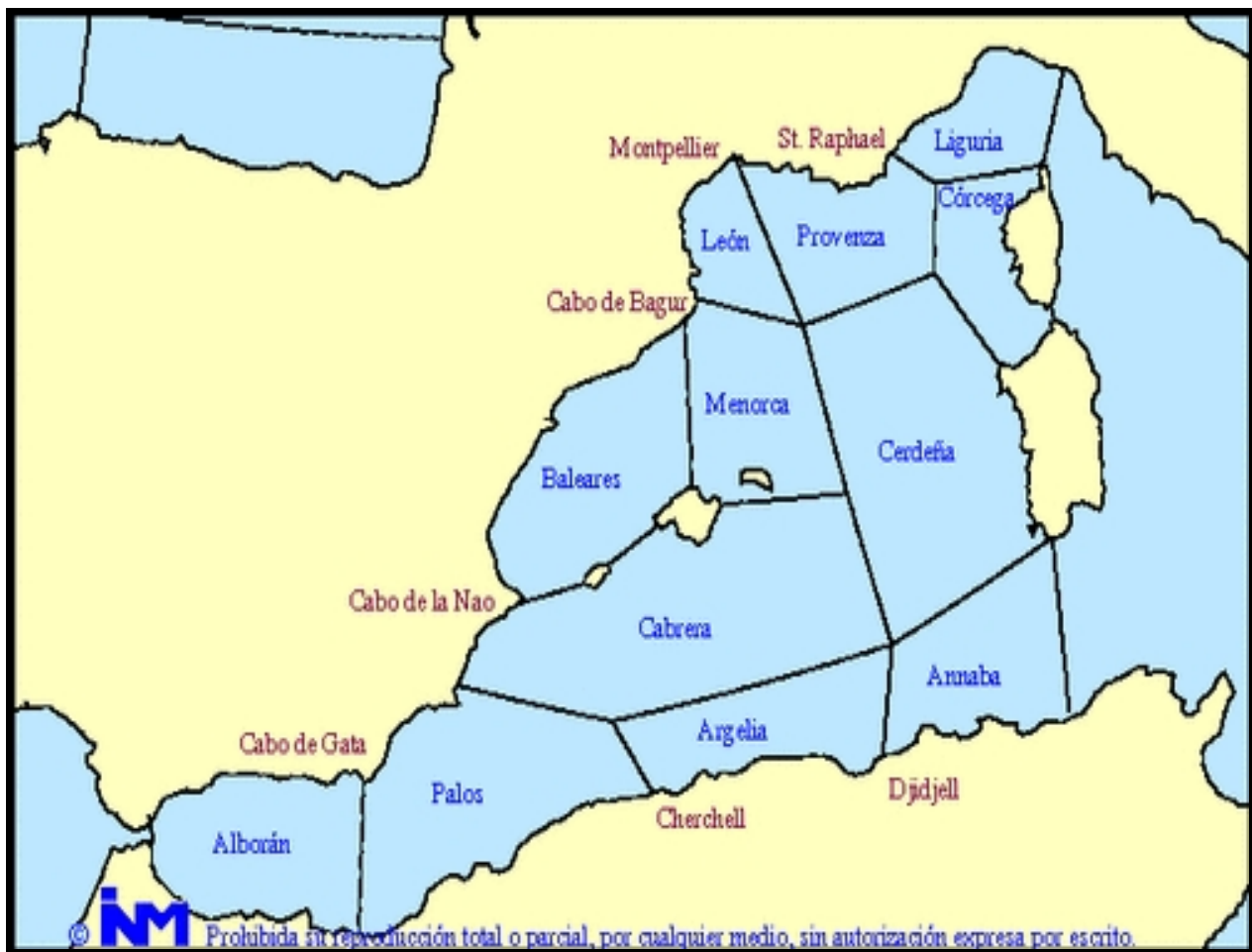


7. Spanish Sea Areas

Downloaded: 9 Feb 2006

7.1 Atlantic Ocean



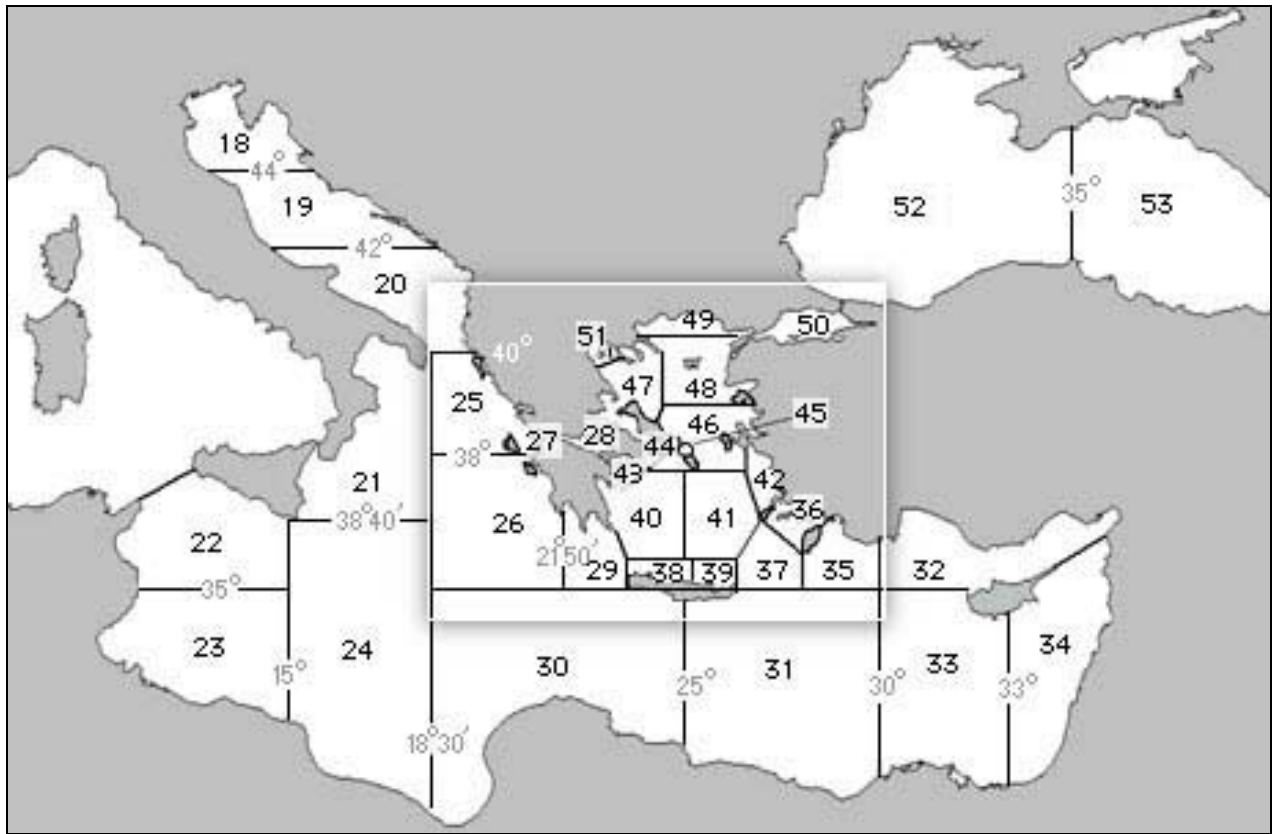


LIMITI DEI MARI ITALIANI

Suddivisione adottata per l'emissione delle Informazioni Nautiche

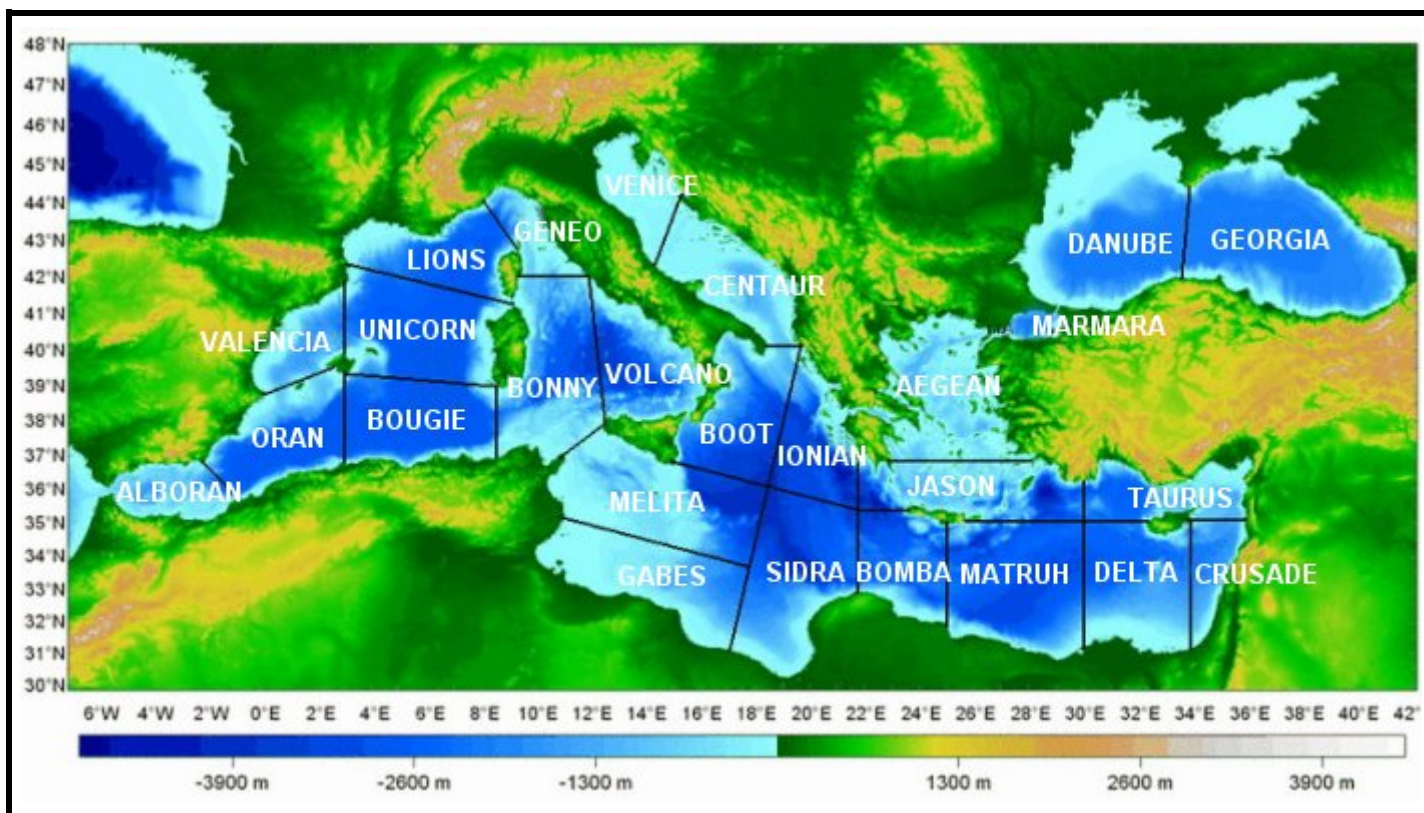


Thanks and appreciation: Reader Filippo Giannetti in Italy sent the URL for this chart.

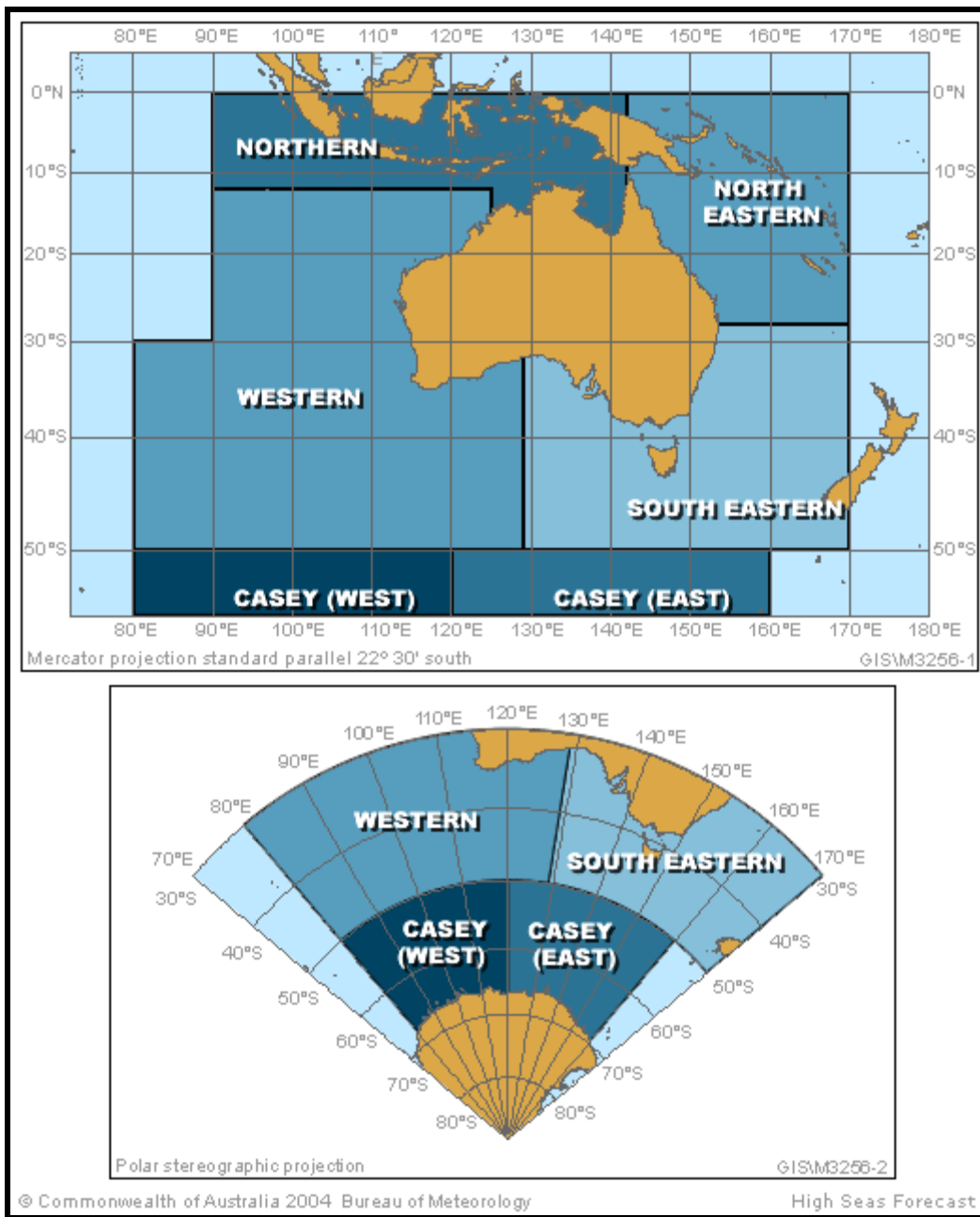


18. NORTH ADRIATIC	30. SOUTHWEST KRITIKO	42. SAMOS SEA
19. CENTRAL ADRIATI	31. SOUTHEAST KRITIKO	43. SARONIKOS
20. SOUTH ADRIATIC	32. TAURUS	44. SOUTH EVOIKOS
21. BOOT	33. DELTA	45. KAFIREAS STRAIT
22. MELITA	34. CRUSADE	46. CENTRAL AEGEAN
23. GABES	35. KASTELLORIZO SEA	47. NORTHWEST AEGEAN
24. SIDRA	36. RODOS SEA	48. NORTHEAST AEGEAN
25. NORTH IONIO	37. KARPATIO	49. THRAKIKO
26. SOUTH IONI	38. WEST KRHTIKO	50. MARMARA
27. PATRAIKOS	39. EAST KRITIKO	51. THERMAIKOS
28. KORINTHIAKOS	40. SOUTHWEST AEGEAN	52. WEST BLACK SEA
29. KITHIRA SEA	41. SOUTHEAST AEGEAN, IKARIO	53. EAST BLACK SEA

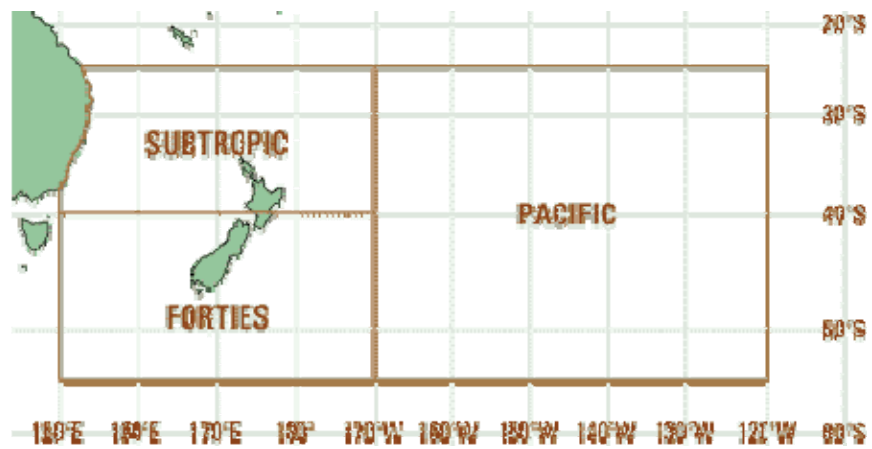
10. Turkish Sea Areas



11. Australian Sea Areas



12. New Zealand Sea Areas



13. RTTY Broadcast Sequence & Locations from the German Weather Service

The German Weather Service broadcasts five day shipping weather forecasts for the areas around Europe via RTTY. The following is a listing of those areas and the sequence of the broadcast received via SSB, October 2005.

Caution: The names of these locations can be misleading. For example, the Tyrrhenian Sea location at La 41.5° N, Lo 10.5° E is really just east of the Bonifacio Strait, about 90 miles to the NW of central Tyrrhenian. Clearly, the weather at the Bonifacio Strait, usually windy, will not be the same as that of the rest of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

BALTIC SEA	La - °N	Lo - °E		NORTH SEA	La - °N	Lo - °E		MEDITERRANEAN SEA	La - °N	Lo - °E
SKAGERRAK	57.5	8.9		GERMAN BIGHT	54.7	5.7		GOLFE DE LION	42.2	4.5
KATTEGAT	56.9	10.8		HUMBER	53.3	2.3		BALEARIC ISLANDS	39.2	3.7
BELTS/SOUND	55.5	10.9		THAMES	51.6	2.2		LIGURIAN SEA	43.3	9.3
WESTERN BALTIC	54.7	12.4		DOGGER	55.2	2.2		WEST CORSE / SARDINI	41.4	7.2
BODDENGW EAST	54.3	14		FORTIES	57.1	1.7		TYRRHENIAN SEA	41.5	10.5
SOUTHERN BALTIC	54.6	15.7		FISHER	57.4	5.3		ADRIATIC SEA-N	44.3	13.5
SE BALTIC	56.2	17.8		VIKING	60.1	0.8		ADRIATIC SEA-S	42	17.8
CENTRAL BALTIC	58.1	20.2		UTSIRA-SOUTH	58.3	5.1		IONIAN SEA	37.3	19.3
NORTHERN BALTIC	59.9	20.9		UTSIRA-NORTH	60.3	4		AEGEAN SEA-N	38.9	25.4
GULF OF RIGA	57.8	23.5		SKAGERRAK	57.5	8.9		AEGEAN SEA-S	36	25.4
GULF OF FINLAND	60.1	26.1		IJSSELMEER	52.7	5.4		RHODES/CYPRUS	34.9	30.6
SEA OF ALAN	60.3	19.9		ENGLISH-CH. – E	50.1	1.2 W		BAY OF BISCAY	46.4	5.7 W
SEA OF BOTHNIA	61.9	19.8		ENGLISH-CH. – W	49.6	4.1 W		BLACK SEA - WEST	43.4	30.8
QUARK	63.6	21.1						BLACK SEA - EAST	43.6	35.1
BAY OF BOTHNIA	65.1	23.4								
ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS										
UQU – N	60.3	4						OESTL.TUNIS	34.6	18.3
								S OF CRETE	34.1	23.4
								PORT SAID	32.1	31.2

